

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 EUR-25 NIC-01 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /176 W

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R 141215Z AUG 74 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8638

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 1887

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PFOR SU

SUBJ: NIMEIRI MONTHLY ADDRESS TO NATION

REF: KHARTOUM 1843 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MADE HIS MONTHLY TV/RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON AUGUST 12, CLAIMING THAT US MIDDLE EAST POLICY IS A CONSEQUENCE OF ARAB ACTION RATHER THAN THE PERSONAL PREFERENCE OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON. NIMEIRI ACCUSED COMMUNISTS OF FOMENTING UNREST IN THE SUDAN, SETTING THE STAGE FOR A TOUGHER GOS STANCE IN LABOR DISPUTES. HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE PLO, LIBYA AND COMING AFRICAN VISITS. HIGHLIGHTS AND EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. US MID-EAST POLICY. NIMEIRI ASSERTED THAT THE CHANGE IN US MIDDLE EAST POLICY RESULTED FROM THE ARAB DECISION TO LAUNCH THE OCTOBER WAR AND FROM ARAB COURAGE, SOLIDARITY, AND RESOURCES. "NONE OF THESE (FACTORS) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTERED THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE DAY OF NIXON'S ELECTION,

AND NONE DEPARTED ON THE DAY OF HIS RESIGNATION."

3. LABOR AND COMMUNISM. NIMEIRI REFERRED TO A STATEMENT OF THE BANISHED SUDANESE COMMUNIST PARTY PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN BEIRUT "COMMUNIST" PAPER (OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED) WHICH CALLS ON SUDANESE TO ENGAGE IN LABOR STRIKES, PROTEST MARCHES, AND OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE NIMEIRI REGIME. NIMEIRI ACCUSED THE COMMUNISTS OF TRYING TO INSTIGATE CIVIL KEREST IN THE SUDAN AND WARNED THAT THE MAY REVOLUTION WOULD NOT TOLERATE IT. HE ADDED THAT RECENT STRIKE ACTIONS WERE NOT MOTIVATED BY LABOR PROBLEMS, AND THAT

THEY WOULD BE DEALT WITH BY GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES.

4. COMMENT: THIS WAS THE MOST FORCEFUL AND IMPASSIONED PART OF NIMEIRI'S ADDRESS, AND IS INDICATIVE OF HIS CONTINUED DISTRUST AND ANXIETY OVER COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. NIMEIRI'S BLAMING OF LABOR STRIKES ON COMMUNIST SUBVERSION IS A STANDARD GOVT. LINE AND IN ONE RECENT CASE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN SOUND. (A SIT-DOWN STRIKE OCCURRED AT SUDAN'S LARGEST TEXTILE MILL, WHERE WORKERS ENJOY THE BEST PAY AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.) THE GOVT. HAS BEEN TAKING A SOFT LINE IN DEALING WITH STRIKES, WHICH ARE ILLEGAL UNDER SUDANESE LAW, PREFERMING TO USE THE SUDAN WORKERS TRADE UNION FEDERATION AS A BARGAINING AGENT BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND LABOR. BUT NOW THAT NIMEIRI HAS PUBLICLY ACCUSED THE COMMUNISTS OF BEING BEHIND RECENT LABOR UNREST, WE EXPECT STERNER GOVT. ACTION. END COMMENT.

5. PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. NIMEIRI RE-AFFIRMED HIS RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AS THE "LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BUT ADDED, NO DOUBT WITH A THOUGHT TO THE MARCH 1973 KHARTOUM MURDERS, THAT THE ENEMY WAS INSIDE THE OCCUPIED LANDS AND NOT WITHIN THE ARAB RANKS.

6. COMMENT: WE EXPECTED NIMEIRI TO FOLLOW THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAD OF EGYPT IN DEALING WITH THE PLO, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF ITS REPRESENTATION AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. END COMMENT.

7. SUDAN/LIBYAN RELATIONS. NIMEIRI STATED THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN SUDAN/LIBYA RELATIONS, AND THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF UNION, MERGER, OR FEDERATION BETWEEN THE. THE ONLY FIELD OF COOPERATION WAS IN THE STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE

THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

8. COMMENT: NIMEIRI'S REJECTION OF LIBYAN OVERTURES FOR BETTER RELATIONS WAS EXPECTED (REFTEL), ALTHOUGH HIS COMMENTS ON LIBYA WERE MODERATE COMPARED TO RECENT PRESS ATTACKS. END COMMENT.

9. NIMEIRI ANNOUNCED HIS PLANS TO VISIT ZAIRE AT THE END OF AUGUST, AFTER WHICH HE WILL ATTEND THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICAN STATES IN BRAZZAVILLE. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT BOTH THE UGANDAN AND TANZANIAN PRESIDENTS WOULD VISIT THE SUDAN SOON.

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